

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and/or prevention of septic shock, comprising VPAC1 receptor agonist with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
2. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and/or prevention of septic shock, comprising VPAC2 receptor agonist with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
3. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and/or prevention of septic shock, comprising PAC1 receptor agonist with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
4. A method for treating and/or preventing septic shock, comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a VPAC1 receptor agonist to a patient.
5. A method for treating and/or preventing septic shock comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a VPAC2 receptor agonist to a patient.
6. A method for treating and/or preventing septic shock comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a PAC1 receptor agonist to a patient.

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